

WHAT ARE CLAIMED ARE:

1. A music data distribution system for distributing music data to an external device connected to a network, comprising:

a storage device that stores first music data;

5 a receiver that receives a music data distribution request from the external device connected to the network, the music data distribution request comprising at least music data identification information and music data quality information;

a reading device that reads the first music data from said storage
10 device in accordance with the music data identification information;
a quality converter that converts the first music data into second music data having a quality different from the first music data in accordance with the music data quality information; and

a transmitter that transmits the first or the second music data to the
15 external device in accordance with contents of the music data distribution request.

2. A music data distribution system according to claim 1, wherein said quality converter converts the first music data into the second music data by reducing the data amount of the first music data.

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3. A music data distribution system according to claim 1, further comprising:

a distribution price determiner that determines a music data distribution price in accordance with the quality of the music data to be transmitted by said

25 transmitter; and

a charging device that charges a user of the external device with the

distribution price determined by said distribution price determiner.

4. A music data distribution system according to claim 1, wherein the music data distribution request further comprises device identification information,
- 5 further comprising a format converter that converts the second music data into third music data having a file format reproducible at the external device.

5. A music data distribution system according to claim 4, further comprising:
- 10 a distribution price determiner determining a music data distribution price in accordance with the file format and quality of the music data to be transmitted by said transmitter; and
- a charging device that charges the distribution price determined by said distribution price determiner to a user of the external device.

- 15 6. A music data distribution system according to claim 4, wherein the first music data has a file format reproducible at an electronic musical instrument and the second music data has a file format reproducible at a mobile phone.

- 20 7. A music data distribution system for distributing music data to an external device connected to a network, comprising:
- a storage device that stores first music data;
- a receiver that receives a music data distribution request from the external device connected to the network, the music data distribution request
- 25 comprising at least music data identification information and device identification information;

a searching device that searches the first music data from said storage device in accordance with the music data identification information;

a quality determiner that determines a quality of said music data which can be reproduced by said external device; and

5 a transmitter that transmits information displayed on a display of said external device for promoting purchase of said music data with the quality determined by said quality determiner to said external device.

8. A music data distribution system according to claim 7, further
10 comprising a setting device that sets a price of said music data having the quality determined by said quality determiner, wherein said information transmitted by said transmitter contains information for displaying said price set by said price setting device.

15 9. A music data distribution method for distributing music data to an external device connected to a network, comprising the steps of:

(a) receiving a music data distribution request from the external device connected to the network, the music data distribution request comprising at least music data identification information and music data quality information;

20 (b) reading a first music data from storage means in accordance with the music data identification information;

(c) converting the first music data into second music data having a quality different from the first music data in accordance with the music data quality information; and

25 (d) transmitting the first or the second music data to the external device in accordance with contents of the music data distribution request.

10. A music data distribution method for distributing music data to an external device connected to a network, comprising the steps of:

(a) receiving means for receiving a music data distribution request from
5 the external device connected to the network, the music data distribution request comprising at least music data identification information and device identification information;

(b) searching the first music data from storage means in accordance with the music data identification information;

10 (c) determining a quality of said music data which can be reproduced by said external device; and

(d) transmitting information displayed on a display of said external device for promoting purchase of said music data with the quality determined at said quality determining step (c) to said external device.

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11. A program which a computer executes to realize a music data distribution process for distributing music data to an external device connected to a network, comprising the instructions of:

(a) receiving a music data distribution request from the external device
20 connected to the network, the music data distribution request comprising at least music data identification information and music data quality information;

(b) reading a first music data from storage means in accordance with the music data identification information;

(c) converting the first music data into second music data having a
25 quality different from the first music data in accordance with the music data quality information; and

(d) transmitting the first or the second music data to the external device in accordance with contents of the music data distribution request.

12. A program which a computer executes to realize a music data distribution process for distributing music data to an external device connected to a network, comprising the instructions of:

(a) receiving means for receiving a music data distribution request from the external device connected to the network, the music data distribution request comprising at least music data identification information and device identification information;

(b) searching the first music data from storage means in accordance with the music data identification information;

(c) determining a quality of said music data which can be reproduced by said external device; and

(d) transmitting information displayed on a display of said external device for promoting purchase of said music data with the quality determined at said quality determining instruction (c) to said external device.